

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add new Claim 17 as follows:

B1  
-17. (New) An optical scanning apparatus comprising:  
a laser unit in which a laser source and an optical element for converting a  
light beam emerging from the laser source are provided;  
an incident optical system for making the light beam emerging from the  
optical element strike an optical deflector while keeping the light beam wider than a width  
of a deflecting surface of the optical deflector in a main scanning direction; and  
an imaging optical system for forming the light beam reflected/deflected by  
the optical deflector into an image on a scanned surface,  
wherein said laser unit is adapted to be shifted in a predetermined direction  
with respect to an optical axis of said incident optical system.--

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are pending, of which Claims 1-16 have been allowed. Claim  
17 has been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection.

Claims 1, 14, and 17 are in independent form.

Applicants have requested a three-month suspension of action in the  
Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith.